

pharmacies of Buckhead provide prescription medications to more than 32,000 of the neighborhood's 70,000 residents. An estimated 6,500 of these medications are dispensed on a daily basis, with many of them being time-sensitive medications for senior citizens.

In order to prevent a potential disaster, the Buckhead Coalition, in conjunction with Home Depot and Georgia Power, has created a subsidy to cover up to seventy-five percent of the cost for purchasing a generator. This subsidy significantly reduces the barriers of cost, making it much easier and more affordable for these pharmacies to be equipped with these possibly life-saving generators.

I commend the Buckhead Coalition, Home Depot and Georgia Power for coming together to provide this opportunity, this safety net, for my community. I encourage other communities to emulate this plan.

INTRODUCING THE U.S. COMMISSION ON REBUILDING AMERICA FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the United States Commission on Rebuilding America for the 21st Century Act. The challenges of the 21st century require a renewed national focus on the infrastructure that is essential to our cities, our rural communities, our economy, and the health of our planet. We have neglected the foundations of America's communities, threatening our environment and our future economic prosperity.

This Act will provide a mechanism for Congress to reach out to the American people and develop a national vision to guide infrastructure investment for the twenty-first century. The legislation creates a commission of 17 members appointed by Congress, the Administration, and State and local governments, to synthesize existing reports to identify challenges and needs; to commence a thorough set of public hearings on infrastructure conducted in not fewer than 50 Congressional districts across the United States to ensure geographic and demographic representation; and to articulate a national vision for infrastructure investments.

Those challenges are both myriad and significant. Consider:

To avoid the worst effects of climate change, we must greatly reduce our carbon emissions. Transportation is the second largest—and fastest growing—source of U.S. CO₂ emissions. Personal vehicle use accounts for nearly 60 percent of these emissions.

The National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission recently calculated that maintaining our existing transportation system over the next 50 years will require \$225 billion annually.

The American Society of Civil Engineers has given our nation's public infrastructure—water, sewer, and transportation systems—a grade of D-minus, estimating that it will cost \$1.6 trillion over the next 5 years merely to repair our existing infrastructure.

More than 72,000 miles of municipal water and sewer pipe are more than 80 years old,

threatening the health, environment, and economy of communities large and small.

From 1999 to 2009, the Nation's electricity demand rose nearly 20 percent while our transmission capacity grew only 3.5 percent.

By 2050, we will build 89 million new or replaced homes as well as 190 billion square feet of new offices and other non-residential buildings. Strategic development choices could reduce total transportation-related CO₂ emissions by 7 to 10 percent.

The American people, it should be noted, have met similar challenges in the past. This year marks the bicentennial of the Gallatin Plan, crafted by President Jefferson's Secretary of the Treasury, Albert Gallatin, to develop the infrastructure needed by our new nation. One hundred years later, President Theodore Roosevelt invited every state and territorial governor to join members of his Cabinet and Congress, professional organizations, and government bureaus in a National Conference at the White House to plan for the infrastructure needs for the 20th century. Today, a new national vision and plan is necessary to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

IN APPRECIATION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR TEACHERS

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, this week we celebrate National Teacher Appreciation Week. It is a time for us to recognize the teachers who are working hard today to prepare students for the future, and the teachers who helped each of us become who we are. As a former teacher, I feel strongly about the work that today's teachers are doing. Beyond the rhetoric of "failing schools" there is a reality in which teachers in classrooms across the country are doing incredible work, with difficult students and limited resources. Many of these teachers are devoting extra hours to help struggling students, to learn new teaching techniques, and to develop innovative strategies and programs to improve student learning, and using their personal financial resources to acquire needed supplies and equipment.

There is no doubt that teachers are the core of our education system. As much as researchers and policymakers debate the values of standards and assessment and incentives and reform, education occurs in a classroom, and consists of an interaction between a teacher and his or her students. Good policy will help these teachers and support them in their work. America's teachers provide instruction in academic subjects, such as English, Math, Science, History, and PE, but they also teach social-behavioral skills, and look out for their students' health and well-being. Good teachers do not just teach a subject, they teach the whole child.

Today's teachers face a unique set of challenges in providing students with the knowledge and skills they will need to be successful in tomorrow's workforce. To be competitive, our students need much more than they did just a decade ago. They now need advanced technology skills and a solid understanding of

science. That is why I will soon be introducing legislation to improve the coordination of the Federal science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education efforts, helping foster cooperation between the States and Federal agencies.

As a Member of the House Appropriations Committee, one of my highest priorities is increasing funding for Federal education programs that will ease the burden on States and localities to provide vital education services. We need to give our teachers more than an apple. They need well-equipped classrooms, instructional materials, and up-to-date facilities. They need smaller classes, a diverse curriculum, time to prepare, and adequate compensation. When budgets are tight, teachers are often expected to accomplish the same goals, but without sufficient help. We must increase funding for education.

I would also like to take this opportunity to publicly congratulate Mrs. Dawn O'Connor, who hails from California's 15th District, for receiving the 2008 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching. Since 1983, the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching have honored outstanding kindergarten through 12th grade mathematics and science teachers for their contributions in the classroom and to their profession. I am honored to recognize Mrs. O'Connor as a recipient of the Presidential Award, the highest recognition that a mathematics or science teacher can receive. Mrs. O'Connor teaches seventh grade biology at Ascension Solarsano Middle School in the Gilroy Unified School District. Mrs. O'Connor and I had the pleasure of meeting last week during her visit to Washington, DC, and I was extremely impressed by her accomplishments.

THE DAILY 45: D.C. RESIDENT MURDERED ON SCHOOL STEPS

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, every day, somewhere in America, an average of 45 people are shot and killed at the hands of a gun-wielding assailant. This senseless loss of life comes in all shapes, sizes, colors and zip codes.

On March 12, 2008, 23-year-old Anthony Maddox, of Washington, DC, was killed on the steps outside Truesdell Elementary School when small children were still inside. Fortunately, no children were harmed but they were surely traumatized by the fact that a man from their neighborhood, casually socializing with neighbors on a balmy spring night, suddenly lost his life at the hands of a gun.

In the words of the late revolutionary patriot, Thomas Paine, "these are the times that try men's souls." These times require action, right now, from men and women like me who are determined to stop the carnage.

We must stop the senseless murders of "The Daily 45." When will Americans say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"